

Heroes ... or just doing the job?

Servicemembers discuss who deserves the title

BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY

Stars and Stripes

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — The four soldiers stood stone silent next to their khaki-colored tent, passing around the question the same way they had been tossing a football.

As he often does, Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Reust settled the score, this time by calling Sgt. Emil Wojcik's number. Answer the question, he snapped.

"Are you a hero?" Wojcik was asked. "And, what is heroism?"

At first, Wojcik fumbled the question, before making a nice recovery.

His answer comes later.

But the issue about heroes and heroism got the soldiers thinking, as it did others who fielded the question. Soon, Reust and his men were all over it like a tackling dummy.

"I don't think you'll ever get a soldier in the Army who could define 'hero,'" said Sgt. Patrick Lavigne of Port Townsend, Wash.

"Nobody really thinks to quantify what a hero is," Lavigne continued. "We don't spend time thinking about it. Everybody enlists for their own reasons. I think it is more of a feeling than a describable trait."

Ever since Sept. 11, 2001, use of the word "hero" has increased tenfold.

Certainly, the selfless actions of all those New York City firefighters, police officers and other rescue personnel, living and deceased, set the standard. The Pentagon had its heroes, too. And, who could ever forget the brave passengers aboard United Airlines' Flight 93 that crashed in a Pennsylvania field?

But to some degree, the word is inching ever so close to becoming a cliché.

Are the people who assisted in the cleanup of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon heroes? What about the efforts of the

Coast Guard and the Border Patrol after 9/11? And how about postal workers, who had to worry about anthrax-laced mail? Is President Bush a hero? Has Congress reacted heroically?



KEVIN DOUGHERTY/Stars and Stripes

Normally, Army Spc. Christopher Upton shoots cannons for a living. But when his first sergeant at Fort Bragg, N.C., asked the unit if anyone wanted to volunteer for duty in Afghanistan, Upton raised his hand.

It's a job

Hanging from the walls of the main dining facility at Bagram air base are large white banners sent by several organizations in the United States. Hundreds of people penned words of encouragement and support to servicemembers. Some well-wishers referred to the members of the armed forces as heroes.

So are they?

"I think of a hero as someone who saves someone else's life," said 21-year-old Spc. Christopher Upton. "I haven't saved anyone's life. I'm just over here doing my job."

Upton didn't have to come to Afghanistan.

The 21-year-old from Joplin, Mo., returned to his home post in early June after spending seven months in Kosovo. He shoots cannons for a living, a job skill not in demand at Bagram — not yet anyway. But when his first sergeant at Fort Bragg asked members of his unit for volunteers to go to Afghanistan, Upton raised his hand — and off he went.

"They say I'll be here six months," the soft-spoken soldier said, "but it doesn't matter to me."

Upton pitches in wherever he can. He usually helps process incoming troops, but he's been known to tackle an assortment of odd jobs. Lately, he's been doing some roofing work on a series of buildings near the passenger terminal.

"I don't view myself as a hero," he said. "It's more the firefighters and police officers who were there for 9/11."

His comments were similar to those of other soldiers and airmen.

"I feel like I'm doing my part," said Army Sgt. Julia Pilat, a civil affairs specialist. "I think the term 'hero' is over-used."

The 28-year-old from Beacon, N.Y., which is up the Hudson River from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, is a reservist.

Pilat spoke on her last day in Afghanistan. After the holiday break, she'll return to her job as a 10th-grade social studies teacher at Beacon High School.

"There are thousands of soldiers over here doing their job, and that's what it is — a job," she said. "There are heroes amongst us, don't get me wrong, but it's not the group."

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Heroes: 'There are a lot of ways to be a hero'

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'Fulfilling the duty'

Not far from where she stood is the Air Force compound at Bagram, the next stop on this quest to better understand heroism.

The center of activity is the building that includes administrative offices, squadron rooms and, of course, the air traffic control tower.

Like Reust, the no-nonsense Army sergeant, Lt. Col. Neal Phillips had no takers for an ambiguous request to talk to a pilot. Phillips, the assistant director of operations for the 354th Fighter Squadron, looked out over a room full of A-10 pilots and settled on Capt. Mark Wendrock.

"I don't think you've talked to anyone since you've become a hero," said Phillips, who still didn't know what the subject was about.

On the afternoon of Nov. 19, a Special Forces group working near its base at Asadabad in eastern Afghanistan was ambushed. A call went out for A-10s, and Wendrock responded.

The pilots dropped two 500-pound bombs and expended more than 300 rounds of ammunition. The group on the ground disengaged unharmed.

"I am fulfilling the duty that I signed up to do," said Wendrock, whose call sign is "Gyro."

The guys on the ground "doing the Pakistan sweeps," he continued, "those are the guys who are the real heroes. Those guys are on the front line."

Wendrock has flown at least 20 combat missions in Afghanistan. What he and the others do is often dangerous, he said, but he stopped well short of calling himself and the others idols.

"A lot of people redefined their definition of a hero after what happened on 9/11," said the 32-year-old from Austin, Texas. "As a society, we have overused the term. I don't think you'll find many of us who would say we are heroes. It's an honor to finally get the opportunity to do what we've trained so long to do."

Air Force Staff Sgt. Chris Veilleux, a reservist with the 94th Security Forces Squadron, weighed in on the issue as well. The 31-year-old hails from Spokane, Wash.

"If you charge a machine-gun nest," Veilleux said as he stood guard outside, "you're a hero. The rest of us are just doing our job."

'Above the call of duty'

The Oxford English Dictionary, the granddaddy of them all, defines a hero as a person admired for courage and outstanding achievements. Words such as champion, conqueror, daredevil and luminary, among others, further broaden the meaning.

"It's action above the call of duty," said Col. Robert Purdy, a British army officer. "If someone just does their job, that doesn't make them a hero."

Heroism, he added, "is courage in the face of what most people might regard as insuperable circumstances."

Purdy also injected into the discourse the notion of moral courage, something South Korean army Maj. Sukhoom Lim expounded upon. Both officers are assigned to the coalition's joint operation center.

"There are a lot of ways to be a hero — mentally, physically and spiritually," Lim said. "A visionary, such as Gandhi, is a hero."

In Afghanistan, he noted, Ahmed Shah Massoud is held in such regard. (Massoud was the military commander of the anti-Taliban Northern Alliance in Afghanistan who died Sept. 9, 2001, when two men posing as journalists set off a bomb hidden in their camera.)

Taking it another step further, Lim said many of his countrymen idolize the United States for its half-century defense of his people. But a country is not a man, of course, and Lim said some people in the world view America with great suspicion, believing its aim has more to do with exerting authority and control.

Heroism or heroics, he said, must not be accompanied by "a desire for more power and authority."

'It's not about a damn medal'

In the end, it's really about purity of purpose.

"It depends on where you are standing, and how you look at it," said U.S. Army Col. Roger King, spokesman for U.S. and coalition forces in Afghanistan.

Back in the United States, many people see servicemembers as heroes, he said, but those in uniform simply view service to country as their duty.

"America is still young and idealistic as a nation," King said.

It's a matter of perspective, King reiterated.

"There are some people in this country that would say Osama bin Laden is a hero," King said.

The thought of such a thing seemed to grate on him, and the subject soon shifted to a young troop who, like Upton, had raised his hand to serve when he easily could have remained still.

"Is he a hero?" King asked. "Of course, he is."

Air Force Tech. Sgt. William Lanier wouldn't lump himself into that category.

Like Veilleux, Lanier is a reservist with the 94th Security Forces Squadron, which is based at Dobbins Air Force Base, Ga. Unlike his colleague, the 26-year-old Lanier lives and works in Georgia. When he's not in a military uniform, Lanier works as a sheriff's deputy for Morgan County, located east of Atlanta.

A hero, Lanier said, "is somebody who does something without any benefit to themselves. They just react without thinking what they'll get out of it."

"It's not about a damn medal."

Which brings us full circle back to Sgt. Reust and his young cadres.

"A lot us look at Sergeant Reust as a hero," said Wojcik, a 23-year-old from Detroit. "Being a hero is knowing your job and doing it to the best of your abilities."

And to a man, they see their tough-as-nails first sergeant as someone who exemplifies knowledge and experience.

"He does the work nobody else likes to do," said Pfc. Joshua Carr, 20, of Radford, Va. "Dealing with the higher-ups, for example, is a lot harder than filling sandbags."

As the young troops discussed the issue of heroism, Reust remained silent until he was prompted to answer the age-old question.

"Everyone serving over here is a true American hero," the 33-year-old Huntington, Ind., native began. "Serving in the military for your country is the most honorable profession you can do."

In American society, today's heroes, he said, tend to be basketball or football stars. Nobody in the military wants to call themselves a hero, Reust added, but, for those in the region, "glamorous or not, they are over here doing things that they don't want to do. But they are, to use a Jack Nicholson quote, 'providing that blanket of freedom.'"

E-mail Kevin Dougherty at: doughertyk@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Anti-Americanism is the flavor du jour in Seoul

BY JAE-SUK YOO

The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — Some restaurants and pubs in South Korea's capital are refusing to serve Americans following the acquittals of two U.S. soldiers in the road deaths of two South Korean girls.

"Americans are not welcome here," read a sign on the glass door and a large window of Zeno, a restaurant that serves spaghetti and barbecued ribs near City Hall.

"I don't want to give a drop of water to Americans," Lee Chang-yong, the restaurant owner, said Thursday.

Lee's reaction symbolizes the extreme of anti-American sentiment in South Korea, one of Washington's closest allies where thousands of U.S. troops are posted.

Although most South Koreans tolerate or support the presence of U.S. forces on South Korean soil as a deterrent to North Korea, there is a widespread perception that the relationship is unfair and tilted in favor of GIs.

The current anti-U.S. outcry stemmed from the acquittals last week in U.S. military courts of Sgt. Fernando Nino and Sgt. Mark Walker, who were in the armored vehicle that hit the 13-year-old girls on June 13 during a training mission. They had been charged with negligent homicide.

President Bush apologized for the deaths of the girls in a message delivered by U.S. Ambassador Thomas Hubbard.

To avoid the potential for street confrontations, a total of 14,000 U.S. soldiers in the 2nd Infantry Division are observing a 10 p.m. curfew. Previously, they were allowed to stay out two or three hours longer. Nino and Walker, who belonged to the division, have left South Korea.

A scattering of anti-U.S. signs has sprung up near Seoul's Hongik University, an entertainment district. But aside from anti-America protests that typically draw dozens or a few hundred people, there is little sign of anti-Americanism in the streets.

Nor have there been calls for a boycott of U.S. products, as there were after American Apollo Anton Ohno won a gold medal at the Salt Lake City Winter Games when South Korean Kim Dong-sung was disqualified.

Workers at Zeno, the restaurant, had opposed the anti-U.S. signs, but their boss was adamant — even though about 10 percent of his customers are Americans and other foreigners.

"Money is not the problem," Lee said. "The incident has seriously hurt our national pride."

Still, some American staples, including Coca-Cola and Miller Light, remained on the menu.

NORAD scrambles jets

WASHINGTON — The military command responsible for the defense of North American airspace scrambled fighter jets in response to unverified reports of an airborne condensation trail, or contrail, moving from the Caribbean to the United States, defense officials said Thursday.

Lt. Col. Michael Humm, a Pentagon spokesman, said the incident happened Wednesday and that the North American Aerospace Defense Command in Colorado Springs, Colo., was investigating.

The reported contrail stirred concern because it could have indicated the presence of an unauthorized jet aircraft in or approaching American airspace.

A contrail is created by vapor from a jet engine in the presence of cold air.

The jets that were scrambled to attempt to intercept and identify the source of the contrail found nothing, said Lt. Cmdr. Curtis Jenkins, a NORAD spokesman.

Bosnia crew finds ammo

BUGOJNO, Bosnia and Herzegovina — Workers of a water supply company have found 63 boxes containing bombs and ammunition beside a road in central Bosnia where they were fixing pipes, police said.

The green boxes were lying near the road linking the central Bosnian towns of Bugojno and Kupres.

Found were 15 boxes contained 2,000 hand grenades and 48 contained more than 67,000 rounds of small arms ammunition, said police inspector Mevsud Sadikovic from Bugojno.

The 63 boxes were taken to the nearest peacekeepers' base in Bugojno and will be destroyed after the investigation.

GAO finds few savings in intranet plan

Stars and Stripes

A plan to link all Navy and Marine Corps computer work stations under one big network isn't proving the cost-savings measure the Navy envisioned.

The Navy and Marine Corps intranet plan "has not measurably affected either IT costs at shipyards and air depots or the rates they charge customers," according to a U.S. General Accounting Office report released last month.

The plan to link every computer and server, and to provide common infrastructure and service needs, is behind schedule by at least a year, according to the report.

The NMCI was up and running at several bases and air depots to measure cost-effectiveness and service requirements but now the Navy won't be able to finish the job until late next year.

The report was given to the Senate and House armed services committees and

the Defense Department. The Defense Department concurred with the GAO's findings.

The NMCI is a multiyear program designed to outsource most of the Navy and Marine Corps' desktop and intranet services. The plan calls for replacing thousands of independent networks, applications, hardware and software with one secure network for all, including deployed forces, according to the GAO.

Navy officials awarded the contract — valued for at least \$6.9 billion over eight years — in October 2000 to Electronic Data Systems Corp. for an estimated 412,000 to 416,000 workstations.

NMCI has been installed at several stateside Naval shipyards and air depots, including Portsmouth, N.H.; Norfolk, Va.; Cherry Point, N.C.; Jacksonville, Fla.; North Island, Calif., and Puget Sound, Wash. Several Navy installations around Washington, D.C., also were outfitted.

Traffic safety award

RAF MILDENHALL, England — Tech Sgt. Joe Jones has been awarded the GEICO Military Service Award for Traffic Safety.

The ground safety craftsman with the 100th Air Refueling Wing pioneered the first online traffic and mishap training course, cutting 8,000 work hours and resulting in a savings of \$175,000. His program also reduced traffic accidents by 50 percent.

He also distributed a newsletter on flightline driving and government vehicle operations. The newsletter is credited with helping to reduce accidents by 25 percent.

Jones also worked to support alcohol awareness month in April, which ended with no springtime charges of DUI.

He also coordinated a child safety seat clinic and health fair, the first time such an event was held.

From wire and staff reports

AF officer releases poetry about aviation

BY MARNI MCENTEE

Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — It is difficult for anyone who hasn't piloted an aircraft to know just how it feels to fly.

A new book by an Air Force officer aims to help people understand.

Lt. Col. Helmut Reda's "Because I Fly" is a collection of 176 poems written by 75 poets on the subject of aviation.

The 231-page book includes poems about the joy of flight, the inevitable deaths that occur and the maintainers who keep the aircraft aloft. The poems were written between 1869 and 2001.

Reda, now working as the Air Force's liaison to the United Nations in Geneva, will be at Ramstein and Spangdahlem air bases in Germany this weekend to sign the book.

"I wrote the book for family members of pilots. This book can tell them, 'Here is why I'm so addicted to flying. If you read these words you'll understand why I'm so obsessed with flying, why I'm willing to go to war and risk my entire family to do this,'" Reda said in a telephone interview.

Pilots themselves, along with anyone associated with flight or those who are simply fascinated by it, will enjoy the book as well, Reda, 44, said.

Reda has been fascinated by aviation since he was 6, he said. That's why he joined the Air Force and that's why he began collecting aviation poetry.

Reda's Air Force specialty is testing high-technology aircraft. During test pilot school, he worked as a flight test engineer.

Reda, who recently was selected for promotion to colonel, has been collecting poems about flight since he was in pilot training, gathering more than 500 poems over 20 years.

Several years ago, Reda did some library research and discovered that there was no current, all-encompassing collection of aviation poetry. He set about compiling one.

He selected 200 poems, contacted poets to get their permission to publish, organized and typed the poems into a manuscript and submitted them to several publishers.

After 35 rejection letters, Reda finally got the nod from international publisher McGraw-Hill. The book went on the market in October 2001, and by Christmas last year it was the 14th best-selling aviation book on Amazon.com, Reda said.

The book includes sections on soaring, the beauty of flight, pilots' personality, war, military service and a special section for children.

E-mail Marni McEntee at:
mcenteem@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Carcinogens found at base

Air, water samples at Prince Sultan AB contaminated

BY R.W. ROGERS

(Newport News, Va.) Daily Press

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. — Cancer-causing chemicals have been found at Prince Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia, where for a decade American airmen have been sent to help patrol the southern no-fly zone over Iraq.

Air Force researchers found nine confirmed or suspected carcinogens in air and water samples taken at the sprawling U.S. base 70 miles southeast of Riyadh. Five more contaminants considered potential cancer-causers also were detected, according to a study based on data collected between 1996 and 1999. Under the Freedom of Information Act, the Daily Press obtained a copy of the health-risk assessment that was written in November 2000.

Dawn Ioven, a toxicologist for the Environmental Protection Agency, said concentrations of benzene, arsenic and other chemicals "would almost certainly" put Prince Sultan Air Base on the federal Superfund list of sites to be cleaned up if it were in the United States.

Some of the chemicals found at Prince Sultan, Ioven said, have been linked to liver, lung and skin cancers.

Air Force officials could not or would not say how many airmen have been stationed at Prince Sultan over the years; whether any medical studies are under way regarding the air base; whether airmen stationed at the base have complained of unexplained or persistent health problems; or if airmen have been told about potential health risks associated with duty at Prince Sultan. A call to the Saudi Arabian embassy in Washington regarding the report was not returned.

At any given time, about 4,500 airmen are stationed at Prince Sultan, home to the 363rd Air Expeditionary Wing, whose mission is to enforce the no-fly zone, defend against Iraqi aggression and to protect U.S. forces in the region.

The chemicals detected in the air and water, Ioven said, probably would produce eight to 10 additional fatal cancers per 100,000 people based on two years of exposure. That cancer rate is at the upper bounds of what is acceptable to the EPA, she said.

An Air Force official pointed out that the cancer-causing chemicals are at levels within EPA guidelines.

True, said Ioven and Michael Goodman, a physician-epidemiologist for Exponent, a Washington, D.C., company that does health-risk assessments, but both said that is no health guarantee because there's no telling what the combined effect of the chemicals — plus 212 others that were found — would be on a person's health.

"You should not assume that a mixture is a bad thing," Goodman said. "It could be good, bad or indifferent. This is one area that's really being explored."

Although the 53-page study didn't identify sources for the contaminants, it did say that the type of airborne chemicals found typically are produced where pesticides are made and used, plastics are produced and fuels are burned.

The Saudi military, according to the Air Force study, operates an incinerator on Prince Sultan.

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Tests on latest audio tape inconclusive

The Associated Press

GENEVA — Tests performed on the latest audiotape statement attributed to Osama bin Laden showed the speaker was an impostor, though insufficient data rendered the test inconclusive, a Swiss research institute said Friday.

Herve Bourlard, director of the Marigney, Switzerland-based Dalle Molle Institute for Perceptual Artificial Intelligence said he tended to agree with the outcome that the tape does not feature the voice of the long-absent terrorist leader, but that the margin of error was too great to be absolutely certain.

"I'd have to say the test was inconclusive but I would lean toward it being an impostor," Bourlard said. "If I had a gun

to my head and was forced to lean one way or the other, I'd say it wasn't bin Laden. But we can't be sure. We didn't have enough data."

The review of the tape was commissioned by France-2 television, which provided the institute with two hours of videotape recordings of bin Laden, his accomplices and other Arab speakers.

The CIA and National Security Agency, which conducted their own technical and linguistic analysis earlier this month, concluded the tape is what it seems: bin Laden himself, reading a statement that promises new terrorism against the United States.

"The CIA may be sure but no scientist in the world will tell you that you can be 100 percent sure in this area," Bourlard said.

Kurds demand a role in planning Iraq's future

BY JOSEPH COLEMAN

The Associated Press

PARIS — Iraqi Kurds will not join a U.S.-led military strike against Saddam Hussein unless they are included in American planning for post-war Iraq, top Kurdish leaders said Friday.

"Before we are involved in any military action, we have to know the aim," said Massoud Barzani, of the Kurdistan Democratic Party, said after a conference in Paris on the future of Iraqi Kurds.

Barzani, one of two top Kurdish leaders, said that the Kurds want to be partners in the restructuring of Iraq should possible U.S. military action topple Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

Barzani and Jalal Talabani, of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, expressed reservations over the possibility of the United States installing a military administration of Iraq after a war.

"We don't want to see any military ruler in Iraq, whether it's an Iraqi military dictator or a foreign military ruler," Barzani told reporters.

Barzani and Talabani insisted that Iraqi Kurds were united in support of a

democratic federal government in Iraq should Saddam be toppled.

They also said that neighboring Turkey had nothing to fear from full Kurdish participation in a future Iraq.

"We guarantee our area will not be a base for the enemies of Turkey to act against them," Talabani said.

Turkey is opposed to a federal system in Iraq because it fears Kurdish autonomy could inspire nationalist sentiment among its own Kurdish minority.

But the speakers at the conference argued that giving autonomy to Iraq's various regions would ensure that ethnic and religious groups would not face the repression they face now.

Kurds and other groups supporting federalism say it would allow them to hold onto some limited autonomy in northern Iraq, where they now occupy a relatively prosperous, liberal enclave.

Some speakers said that Saddam's fall would require the country's disparate groups to negotiate a government all can agree on. Otherwise, Iraq's cycle of violence and despotism could repeat itself.

The Kurdish groups are trying to schedule a conference on the future of Iraq for Dec. 13-15 in London.

U.S. in Afghanistan 'for as long as it takes,' Franks says

BY MIKE ECKEL

The Associated Press

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — The U.S. war on terror in Afghanistan is on track, and the United States will remain in the country carrying out combat operations and reconstruction projects "for as long as it takes," the U.S. general overseeing the war said Friday.

Speaking to reporters at Bagram air base, the headquarters of U.S. and coalition military operations in Afghanistan, Gen. Tommy Franks said U.S.-led efforts to root out al-Qaida and Taliban remnants in Afghanistan were maintaining their momentum. As commander of U.S. Central Command, Franks oversees all U.S. troops in the Middle East and Central Asia.

Attacks and hostile incidents on U.S. and coalition forces in Afghanistan in the past three months have increased. On Wednesday, a U.S. special forces soldier was shot and wounded in an ambush and on Thursday, gunmen fired as many as

five rockets at a U.S. base in southeastern Afghanistan.

Most of the top al-Qaida and Taliban leaders are still at large.

"While an awful lot has been done in Afghanistan, this is Afghanistan. We're just going to have to stay with it for as long as it takes ... to be sure that we don't permit terrorism to retake Afghanistan," Franks said.

Franks refused to say whether the U.S. mission was evolving into one of "nation-building" — a term some U.S. political and military leaders say is better left to the United Nations or other organizations.

U.S. forces routinely offer humanitarian assistance and medical aid to Afghan villages. Civil affairs officers also travel with combat troops to query villagers about development needs, like drinking water and agriculture.

"We're talking about modifying the focus of what we put into [military operations] ... and how much we put into the business of reconstruction," Franks said.

Paralyzed dog makes rounds in hospital

BY BOB BATZ JR.

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Heidi works Fridays at a hospital. It's easy to see why she likes it.

She's got great hours: 3 to 4 p.m. She gets a parking spot. And her colleagues couldn't be nicer. She can just be herself — a snuffling, slobbering St. Bernard.

This health-care gig, which Heidi has had for nearly a year, was an abrupt departure from her intended career path.

Her family, the Valkos, raised her to show and to breed.

Heidi's "mom," Cindy Valko, recalls being at home with her March 15, 1999. Heidi, who was about 2, shuffled into the bedroom dragging her rear left leg. Cindy thought she had a pebble in her paw, but as soon as she put her arms around her and felt her heavy breathing and pounding heart, she knew something was wrong.

She and her husband, George, hurried Heidi to the vet. By the time they got there, both rear legs were paralyzed. By the next morning, vets had ruled out a spinal cord compression, but they still weren't sure what had happened. Perhaps a clot had cut off the blood to her spine.

The Valkos thought she would die. Or they'd have to put her down.

But after several days, Heidi regained control of her bladder and bowels and wasn't in any pain. She just couldn't move her rear legs.

The Valkos had a wheelchair specially built that supports her rear end while she stands on her front legs. She can propel herself in this when she's outside the house. Otherwise, by dragging herself and crawling, she gets around almost as well as the Valkos' two other St. Bernards, Beatrice and Lotto. As Cindy Valko puts it, "She can make it from the family room to the front door faster than I can."

Hiring Heidi at Montefiore was the idea of Debbie Mangol, director of the rehabilitation unit there. She knew Cindy Valko, now endocrine nurse coordinator at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center's nearby Falk Clinic, because she used to work at Montefiore.

Mangol previously had used a therapy dog, but not one with a handicap, nor one so large. She thought that even though Heidi doesn't have a degree from therapy dog school, she'd be especially great dog therapy for rehab patients, because many of them are using wheelchairs, too.

She was right.

Heidi and recreation therapist Mike King roll from room to room in the rehab unit, where up to 20 patients at a time begin recovering from everything from neurological disorders to broken bones to cancer surgery to transplants.

Gap boycott urged

SAN FRANCISCO — Garment workers from Indonesia are appealing to consumers in the United States to boycott Gap products to protest labor conditions at factories in Southeast Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Alleging many of the Gap-contracted factories sweatshops, the workers said conditions were inhumane.

In a new 24-page study on working conditions in Gap factories, the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees, known as UNITE, accused the Gap of poor health and safety conditions in factories contracted by the multibillion-dollar company.

The report also alleged union busting activities by management, and, in some instances, corporal punishment to force laborers to meet quotas.

A spokeswoman for the Gap said the factories were not owned by the Gap, but were independently contracted.

Drug stockpiling urged

OAK RIDGE, Tenn. — Radiation specialists at the Radiation Emergency Assistance Center/Training Site are recommending that the government stockpile two drugs — DTPA and Prussian Blue — to prepare for possible terrorist attacks with "dirty bombs."

The drugs can be used to treat people contaminated with radioactive materials, but both are listed as "investigational" by the Food and Drug Administration and are not commercially available.

Currently, the Oak Ridge site has the only supply of the drugs in the United States, and that supply is limited.

Polls suggest Gore has edge

WASHINGTON — Al Gore has an advantage among Democratic presidential hopefuls should he decide to run for president in 2004, polls suggest, but public sentiment about the former vice president is mixed.

When Democrats are given a list of possible candidates for the party's nomination, Gore routinely comes out well ahead of the others. A CNN-Time poll released in mid-November that asked Democrats' preference for the party's nomination in 2004 put the party's 2000 nominee at 36 percent, New York Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton at 20 percent and all others in single digits.

Clinton has said she is not running, and when the question is asked with her name removed from the list, Gore's support swells to 53 percent, with Connecticut Sen. Joe Lieberman and Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle at 10 percent each and others in single digits.

In a CNN-Time poll rematch of the 2000 election, President Bush won with 57 percent, while Gore garnered 40 percent.

From wire services

Israeli army evacuates tourists from Kenya

BY MATTHEW ROSENBERG

The Associated Press

MOMBASA, Kenya — An Israeli army team on Friday began evacuating tourists injured in the deadly suicide bombing of an Israeli-owned hotel.

Kenyan police said they picked up 12 people for questioning in connection with the blast and a simultaneous attempted attack on an Israeli airliner.

At least one of those being questioned had an American passport and gave a Florida address, said Ben Wafula, the manager of the hotel where the woman and her husband were staying when detained.

The death toll in the bombing increased to 16 as rescue workers recovered the body of another Kenyan on Friday, a health official said. The blast at the Paradise Hotel killed 10 Kenyans, three Israelis and the three suicide bombers.

Gilad Millo, a spokesman for the Israeli Foreign Ministry, said 235 tourists, including 15 injured in the blast and the bodies of the three Israelis, were flown home Friday. Prime Minister Ariel Sharon sent his official plane to carry some of the Israelis.

Also Friday, Israel temporarily closed its embassies in the Philippines and South Africa and may shut down additional diplomatic missions after the at-

tacks, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Police said 12 people were picked up for questioning in the Mombasa area, but gave no details. The American woman, whom a police source identified as Alice Kalhammer, and an unidentified man were detained as they checked out of the Le Soleil Beach Club about 90 minutes after the attacks, Wafula said.

The Le Soleil Beach Club is about three miles south of the Paradise.

U.S. Embassy spokesman Peter Clausen confirmed that the woman — whom he declined to name — was an American citizen. He said the man, believed to be her husband, was a Spanish national with resident status in the United States.

However, sources said police did not believe the two were involved in the attacks and they were expected to be released soon.

About five minutes before the hotel blast, two missiles streaked past a Boeing 757 Israeli charter aircraft owned by Arkia Airlines as it left Mombasa airport bound for Tel Aviv, Israel.

Police said witnesses told them the missiles were fired from a four-wheel drive vehicle one mile from the airport. The witnesses said they saw three or four Arab-looking men in the vehicle.

Investigators found two missile casings near the airport. The plane with 261 passengers and 10 crewmembers landed safely in Tel Aviv with no casualties.

Indonesia points finger at Muslim cleric

BY STEVEN GUTKIN

The Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia — A detained 64-year-old Muslim cleric was likely involved in last month's deadly Bali blasts carried out by a regional terror network that may mount more attacks, Indonesia's defense minister said Friday.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Matori Abdul Jalil said the al-Qaida terror group was working to establish a vast network in Indonesia and Southeast Asia. He said the Oct. 12 nightclub blasts that killed more than 190 people on Bali island bore all the hallmarks of an al-Qaida-ordered assault.

If the network is not brought under control, "there will be new attacks," the minister said.

Abu Bakar Bashir, the alleged spiritu-

al leader of the regional al-Qaida linked terror group Jemaah Islamiyah, was closely associated with the three top suspects in the Bali blasts and therefore must be involved, the minister said.

Matori is the first high-ranking Indonesian official to implicate Bashir in the Bali attack.

Although Bashir was arrested after the Bali blasts, he is being questioned about a spate of church bombings two years ago and an alleged assassination attempt against President Megawati Sukarnoputri.

Until now, he has never been officially linked to the Bali attack, the worst act of terror since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in the United States. Bashir has denied involvement in the Indonesia bombings and his lawyers were not immediately available for comment on Friday.

Prepare for worst

Biggest oil slick yet from sunken tanker heads toward Spain's coast

BY DANIEL WOOLLS

The Associated Press

MADRID, Spain — The government of Spain's Galicia region told coastal residents to prepare for the worst as the biggest oil slick yet from the sunken tanker Prestige oozed relentlessly toward land on Friday.

Strong winds and currents off Spain's northwest coast were pushing the sprawling, amorphous mass toward Cape Finis-terre, one of the areas already tarred by fuel oil from the Prestige, said Enrique Lopez Veiga, the fisheries minister of the Galicia region.

The slick — estimated to contain 2.4 million gallons of fuel oil — was about 20 nautical miles offshore early Friday, the Galician government's maritime resources department said. That means it had traveled about 13 nautical miles since Thursday night.

Besides the wind, currents are also pushing the slick ashore, Lopez Veiga said in Santiago de Compostela, the regional capital. "We have everything against us," he told Galician radio. "We must prepare for the worst."

The only unknown factor is how the slick will behave when it reaches the continental shelf just

offshore, where currents are unpredictable, the minister said.

Spain says the slick contains oil spilled when the Prestige broke apart and sank about 150 miles offshore, and that no oil has escaped from the ship's holds since then.

The 26-year-old, single-hulled ship started leaking Nov. 13 when its hull cracked in a storm in the Atlantic Ocean. It broke in two and sank six days later.

Seven oil-sucking skimmer boats from other European Union countries left port to head for the slick but waves up to 23 feet would probably keep them from working Friday, the Spanish Interior Ministry said.

If the whole slick came ashore, it would be far more oil than that which has hit the craggy, economically vibrant coast of Galicia since the disaster began two weeks ago.

The ship took most its 20 million gallons of fuel oil with it when it sank. But an estimated 1.6 million gallons spilled and contaminated a region which had suffered another big spill a decade ago.

The oil has blackened hundreds of miles of beach and rocky shore and forced a ban on fishing and seafood harvesting along a 300-mile stretch.

Arctic ice melting faster than predicted

Toronto Globe and Mail

The ice that has characterized the Arctic Ocean for millennia is fated to disappear far faster than anyone imagined, and will certainly be gone before the century is out, says a NASA satellite study.

The startling survey shows that an area of ancient ice roughly as large as Texas is vanishing every decade as the climate warms.

Over the course of this survey, which ran from 1978 to 2000, about 1.2 million square kilometers of supposedly permanent ice melted away.

And the rate of the melt — roughly 9 percent a decade — is speeding up, said physicist Josefino Comiso, senior scientist at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland and author of the study.

Once the ice and snow are gone, that dynamic will end and this will affect climate all over the planet in ways scientists have not yet begun to fathom.

The cause of all this warmth, said Tom Agnew, a research meteorologist with the Meteorology Service of Canada, is linked to the greenhouse-gas emissions that humans are pumping into the atmosphere as they burn fossil fuels.

Russian soldier kills 8

ROSTOV-ON-DON, Russia — A Russian soldier under the influence of narcotic substances opened fire on fellow servicemen, killing at least eight of them and wounding three others — the latest in a string of shooting sprees in the nation's demoralized military.

The soldier, identified as Denis Solovyov, early Friday fired his Kalashnikov assault rifle at a tent where his 11 comrades were resting while deployed on patrol at Russia's border with Georgia in the Caucasus Mountains. Some of the victims were killed on the spot and others later died of wounds in hospital.

Oil slick along Danube

MELK, Austria — Firefighters battled for several hours Friday to channel and remove an oil slick, which threatened villagers and wildlife along the most scenic part of the Danube in Austria.

Officials said some 500 firefighters channeled and then siphoned off most of the oil to minimize pollution of the Wachau, the stretch of Danube between the towns of Melk and Krems, the Austria Press Agency reported.

Efforts to contain and remove the pollution were helped by the fact that there was hardly any wind during the crucial hours.

WWII bomb removed

ATHENS, Greece — Greek army experts removed a World War II bomb Friday at Athens' former international airport, which will become a sports venue for the 2004 Olympics.

The 250-pound bomb was found by work crews Thursday buried eight feet deep near a former runway.

Bomb disposal experts removed the ordnance and destroyed it at a military facility, the army said.

An army unit has been combing the old airport grounds for several months. They have already removed two other bombs from World War II.

American on hunger strike

JAKARTA, Indonesia — An American nurse detained in Indonesia's troubled Aceh province for alleged visa violations, has gone on a hunger strike to protest delays in her trial, her attorney said Thursday.

Joy Lee Sadler, a nurse from Waterloo, Iowa, was arrested on Sept. 11 in Aceh along with Lesley Jane McCulloch, a Scottish-born researcher from Australia's Tasmania University.

They have been charged with violating the terms of their tourist visas by contacting rebels of the Free Aceh Movement. Both deny the charges, which carry a maximum five year jail sentence.

Their trial opened Monday in the provincial capital of Banda Aceh. Proceedings were adjourned until Dec. 19.

North Korean defections soar

SEOUL, South Korea — A total of 1,008 North Koreans have defected to South Korea so far this year and the number is expected to rise, South Korea's Unification Ministry said Thursday.

The figure is sharply up from 2001, when 583 North Koreans defected. In 2000, 312 North Koreans defected and 148 fled the communist country in 1999.

Most of the defectors came to South Korea via China, which shares a long land border with the impoverished, communist North.

From The Associated Press

Stewart still working with Steelers starting offense

PITTSBURGH — Kordell Stewart took nearly all the snaps with the Pittsburgh Steelers' starters in practice for the second straight day Thursday, making it nearly certain he will start Sunday in Jacksonville.

Stewart made his first start since Sept. 29 on Sunday and completed 22 of 26 passes in a 29-21 win over Cincinnati. He also did not throw an interception, which coach Bill Cowher cited as a major reason for the Steelers' fifth win in seven games.

As he has all week, Cowher declined Thursday to identify his starter or to discuss the specifics of his apparent decision to start Stewart rather than Tommy Maddox.

Maddox started seven consecutive games before sitting out against the Bengals, a week after he was briefly paralyzed by a hit in Tennessee. Maddox wants to play in Jacksonville and seems disappointed by the apparent decision to go with Stewart.

If Stewart starts, it might be because Cowher wants to go with the quarterback who is currently playing well — as he did earlier with Maddox — or because he wants to give Maddox another week of rest. Although Maddox has been cleared by doctors to

NFL in brief

play and he has no lingering problems from his cerebral and spinal cord concussions, neurosurgeon Joseph Maroon said he would prefer Maddox stay out another week.

Cowher also could be waiting to see if Stewart can keep throwing as accurately as he did in his past two games, when he was 35-for-43. If Stewart struggles, Maddox then could replace him.

No salary for Cardinals' Jones

PHOENIX — Injured Arizona Cardinals running back Thomas Jones will not be paid for the remainder of the season.

His placement on the reserve/non-football injury list means the team will not pay him the roughly \$143,000 he would be owed for the rest of the season.

Jones broke his right hand last week when he struck the edge of a countertop while trying to reach for a telephone at home.

Cardinals director of public relations Paul Jensen said Friday that because Jones' injury did not occur in a game or at practice, he had to be placed on the non-football injury list.

Fisher guarantees George will set record against Giants

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Titans coach Jeff Fisher made a guarantee about this weekend's game against the Giants.

It wasn't all that bold, though.

Not worried about creating bulletin board material, Fisher guaranteed that Eddie George would break the franchise's career rushing record against New York.

George, you see, needs just 4 yards to surpass the mark of 8,574 set by Earl Campbell from 1978 to '84, when the team was known as the Houston Oilers.

"If you guys want to quote me on a guarantee, I am going to guarantee that he will get the record this week," Fisher said, joking.

Giants middle linebacker Mike Barrow laughed when told about the guarantee. When George entered the NFL in 1996, Barrow was a teammate in Houston.

"Eddie George is so tall you can hit him and he'll lean over like 'Andre The Giant' and get 4 yards," Barrow said. "His body stretches 4 yards."

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Zsa Zsa Gabor in serious condition

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Zsa Zsa Gabor was breathing on her own but still unable to speak Friday as she recovered from an automobile accident on Sunset Boulevard, her husband said.

"She's getting better, she recovered a little last night," Frederic von Anhalt said from Cedars-Sinai Medical Center.

Gabor suffered multiple broken bones, cuts and bruises in the Wednesday crash, he said.

She has improved, but remained in serious condition Friday, said hospital spokeswoman Leslie Porras, who declined to give any further information.

Gabor's daughter, Constance Francesca Hilton, said her mother had a broken arm, but no other serious injuries.

Gabor had been unconscious for "a long, long time" following the accident, von Anhalt said.

Gabor, 85, was a passenger in the front seat of a car driven by her hairdresser when the car struck a light pole Wednesday evening, von Anhalt said.

Gabor's hairdresser also was injured, von Anhalt said. Further details were not available.

The cause of the accident was unknown, said Sgt. Bruce Thomas of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Gabor was apparently not wearing a seat belt, he said.

No arrests were made and it appeared that alcohol and drugs were not involved in the crash, Thomas said.

For decades, Gabor has epitomized the celebrity who is famous for being famous. Her furs, jewels, looks — and humor — kept her in the news long after her film career faded.

In 1989, Gabor was sentenced to 72 hours in jail for slapping a Beverly Hills police officer. She also was ordered to perform 120 hours of community service at a women's shelter.

Faces 'n' places

Ex-Miss America engaged

Former Miss America Katie Harman is set to become a Mrs.

The 22-year-old is engaged to her beau of five months, Air National Guard fighter pilot Capt. Tim Ebner. Ebner proposed about three weeks ago, on one knee, a diamond ring waiting on his Bible and red roses scattered around the house.

"When I saw it, I was blown away," Harman said. "It was better than I imagined."

The Oregonian reported Wednesday that the couple, who began dating in June, are planning a big church wedding next summer and looking for a home near Portland State University, where Harman returns to school in January.

Shania climbs CD chart

It didn't take long for Shania Twain to climb up the album chart — her new disc, "Up!" debuted at No. 1.

The country star's first release in five years sold a whopping 874,000 copies in its first week in stores, according to industry figures released Wednesday.

That nearly doubles the first-week sales of another country star who's enjoyed major crossover success, Faith Hill, whose "Cry" debuted at No. 1 a month ago with about 472,000 copies sold.

"Up!" is composed of two discs, with the same songs in the same order on both; the "red" disc contains the pop-rock versions, while the "green" disc holds the country-tinged versions.

Debuting at No. 2 was the 11th volume of the "Now That's What I Call Music!" series. The latest compilation, which includes Nelly's ubiquitous "Hot in Herre" and songs from Coldplay, Norah Jones, Eve and Creed, sold about 316,000 copies.

And Audioslave's self-titled debut entered the chart at No. 7, selling 162,000 copies. The band features members of Rage Against the Machine and former Soundgarden lead singer Chris Cornell,

who stepped in when Rage frontman Zack de la Rocha left the band two years ago.

Harding to start boxing

"Celebrity Boxing" wasn't a one-time thing for Tonya Harding.

The former Olympic figure skater will make her debut as a professional fighter before the Mike Tyson-Clifford Etienne bout on Feb. 22.

After pummeling Paula Jones on the Fox show "Celebrity Boxing" in March, Harding said she's ready to get into the ring for real.

"It is my goal to be a future, undisputed bantamweight champion. My proven athletic ability and competitive nature will help this dream become a reality," the 31-year-old said Tuesday with Tyson in Tunica, Miss.

Harding competed in the Winter Olympics and was the 1991 and 1994 national figure skating champion but was stripped of her U.S. title and banned from competitive skating for life for her role in the January 1994 knee-clubbing assault on rival Nancy Kerrigan organized by Harding's ex-husband.

Bizkit singer settles suit

Limp Bizkit front man Fred Durst settled a \$5 million battery lawsuit filed by a former lighting technician who claimed he hit her and broke her nose during the "Anger Management" tour.

Terms of the settlement, reached last month, were not released.

"It's a confidential settlement, and they're going on with their lives," Connie Paulson's attorney, Lawrence Ecoff, said Tuesday.

Paulson alleged Durst had a "fit of rage" and threw a microphone that hit her in the face.

Paulson said she suffered a broken nose, two black eyes and a broken front tooth, and will require future plastic surgery.

From The Associated Press

This year will be it for Jordan

'Zero chance' he returns to Wizards next season

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Michael Jordan made it clear that he's playing his final NBA season, saying there's "zero chance" he will return for a third year with the Washington Wizards.

Jordan said Thursday he will retire after this season and return to his role as partial owner of the Wizards.

"I tell you right now that I'm just fulfilling my contract," said Jordan, who signed a two-year, \$2.1 million deal with Washington last year after stepping down from his executive duties.

"At the end of this season, I'm not looking at another contract. I just want to finish this year out and hopefully fulfill my obligations and let this team take its own course."

Jordan, who will turn 40 in February, returned to basketball last season because he said he still felt the need to compete.

After joining the Wizards as a player, Jordan energized Washington for most of last season before he was forced out of the lineup with a right knee injury that eventually required surgery.

Coming into this season, Wizards coach Doug Collins said Jordan would come off the bench in an effort to keep him fresh. However, with the Wizards slipping lately and on a four-game slide, Jordan told Collins — whom he hired as coach while serving as team president — to play him more.

Jordan is averaging 16.6 points a game this season. Based on his comments Thursday, it appears he isn't concerned about the wear and tear on his knee because he's not going to play after this season.

Jordan said he wants to see the Wizards' young players like Kwame Brown, Juan Dixon, Jared Jeffries and Tyrone Lue develop into a playoff-caliber team without him.

After his two previous retirements,

both from the Chicago Bulls, Jordan left little doubt as to whether he was truly done.

Asked if he's leaving himself any wiggle room to return next season, Jordan said, "After this, there will be no want. I'm 100 percent sure that after this I'm done."

Jordan said he still thinks Washington (6-8) can make the playoffs, but his immediate goal is stopping the team's current slide.

Washington has dropped five of its last seven games, including an 88-84 loss Tuesday night to Indiana. In that game, Jordan tied his season high with 34 minutes.

During his 14-year career, Jordan won the NBA MVP award five times and led the league in scoring a record 10 times.

He, Scottie Pippen and a strong group of role players helped the Bulls win six championships, from 1991-93 and 1996-98. Jordan retired the first

time in 1993 to pursue a career in baseball, then returned for the final 17 games of the 1994-95 season.

After the Bulls' next three titles, Jordan retired again, in January 1999.

He became the Wizards' president of basketball operations on Jan. 19, 2000. Months before he resumed his playing career for a second time, he said he was "99.9 percent" certain he would not play again.

He averaged 22.9 points last season, his lowest production since his injury-plagued second season with the Bulls, when he averaged 22.7 points in just 18 games.

With Jordan's experience, the Wizards briefly looked as if they might make the playoffs last season, starting 26-21. But he missed 22 games after the knee surgery, and the Wizards lost 24 of their last 35.

Jordan made a significant offseason move when he traded Richard Hamilton — the team's second-leading scorer — to Detroit for Jerry Stackhouse.

Continued from Page 8

Griese, Sharpe make it through second practice

DENVER — Brian Griese and Shannon Sharpe made it through a second practice without any setbacks Thursday, but it was unclear whether they will play for Denver against San Diego.

Broncos coach Mike Shanahan said his starting quarterback and tight end will have to go through more rigorous workouts before a decision is made about Sunday's game.

"Both looked pretty good. It's going to be a game-time decision," Shanahan said. "We'll see if there's any setback tomorrow, but both of them came through yesterday in pretty good shape."

Griese returned to practice Wednesday for the first time since spraining his left knee against Seattle on Nov. 17.

Shanahan said Griese was sore Thursday morning, but it wasn't enough to keep him from practicing. He said Griese will try to do more in practices Friday and Saturday to see if he'll be able to handle game conditions.

Sharpe made huge strides since partially separating his right elbow against Oakland on Nov. 11. He was expected to miss up to a month, but returned to practice Wednesday.

James returns to practice, expected to start Sunday

INDIANAPOLIS — Colts running back Edgerrin James returned to practice Thursday after an ankle injury and is expected to start against the Houston Texans.

James re-injured a sprained ankle in the third quarter Sunday at Denver. He was sidelined for part of the

NFL in brief continued

fourth quarter and overtime. With James Munro in his place, the Colts won 23-20 in overtime.

Munro has minor knee and calf injuries but is expected to play Sunday. Ricky Williams also may see more time at running back against the Texans.

Fiedler working with first team

DAVIE, Fla. — Miami Dolphins quarterback Jay Fiedler took some snaps with the first-team offense Thursday, another step back from a broken right thumb.

Fiedler practiced for the second straight day as he tries to work into playing condition after being injured Oct. 13 at Denver.

Wannstedt said Wednesday that Fiedler probably will be uniform as the No. 2 or No. 3 quarterback Sunday at Buffalo.

Ray Lucas will start his sixth straight game for Miami. The Dolphins (7-4) are 2-3, including two straight wins, without Fiedler.

Marines getting out the vote for one of their own in Pro Bowl

Fan voting for the Pro Bowl will continue for another 2½ weeks, but the early returns have the Broncos' Mike Anderson leading at fullback with more than 270,000 votes.

That's nearly as many as flashy San Francisco wide receiver Terrell Owens and more-than-mouthy Warren Sapp has at defensive tackle.

What's going on here? Is Camp Pendleton stuffing the online ballots?

"I couldn't even tell you," Anderson said. "I hope I'm making a name for myself. But I'm pretty sure a lot of Marines out there are voting for me, too."

Anderson, a former Marine, will return this weekend to San Diego, where his football career started about seven years ago at Camp Pendleton.

Remember, Anderson played drums, not football, in high school, and only stumbled upon his talents on the gridiron after joining in a game of flag football during physical training.

Before long, word got out that Anderson was pretty good. His buddies urged him to join the camp team. Anderson resisted but finally was convinced. The rest is history.

He would go on to star at Mt. San Antonio Junior College and earn a scholarship at Utah before the Broncos drafted him in the sixth round in 2000. Anderson went on to earn AFC Offensive Rookie of the Year honors that year with 1,487 yards rushing.

Fan voting continues through Dec. 16, and players and coaches vote after that, with each segment counting one-third toward the final results.

RB Smith's DWI charge adds to Panthers' woes

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Carolina Panthers running back Lamar Smith was charged with drunken driving, the latest legal embarrassment for the team.

Panthers wide receiver Steve Smith was suspended for one game by the team Nov. 20 for a fight that sent teammate Anthony Bright to the hospital.

The Panthers also released offensive tackle Chris Terry, who was arrested Nov. 20 for failing to appear in court on a misdemeanor charge of assaulting his wife.

Also, defensive end Julius Peppers is appealing a four-game suspension for violating the league's substance-abuse policy.

Teammate Brentson Buckner already accepted a four-game suspension for the same violation.

From wire reports

GOLF

COOLUM, Australia — John Daly was disqualified for failing to sign his scorecard in the Australian PGA, while Jarrod Moseley shot a 6-under 66 to take the second-round lead.

Daly, playing a week after his mother's death, threw his putter and ball into a lake near the 18th green after shooting a 78.

Moseley had a 13-under 131 total for a one-stroke lead over two-time Australian Open champion Aaron Baddeley (65). Peter Lonard was two strokes back after a 68.

SUN CITY, South Africa — Retief Goosen and Chris DiMarco each shot 4-under 68 to share the first-round lead at the \$4.06 million Nedbank Golf Challenge.

Jim Furyk was at 69, with three players at 70: defending champion Sergio

Sports in brief

Garcia, Robert Allenby and Ernie Els. The winner of the elite 12-player tournament earns \$2 million, the richest first prize in golf.

OLYMPICS

MEXICO CITY — The International Olympic Committee overwhelmingly upheld the ban on member visits to bid cities, the major reform enacted following the Salt Lake City scandal.

Only six out of the 118 IOC members attending the meeting voted in favor of reinstating the trips.

The result marked a major victory for IOC president Jacques Rogge, who had campaigned against bringing back the visits.

HOCKEY

EDMONTON, Alberta — Edmonton Oilers right wing Georges Laraque was released from the hospital following a car accident.

Laraque's sport utility vehicle apparently collided with a van in west Edmonton. A mother and daughter who were in the van were also taken to the hospital with neck injuries, sore chests, cuts and bruises. They were later released, the Oilers said.

YACHTING

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — Dennis Conner's ninth America's Cup campaign ended when his New York-based

team, Stars & Stripes, was eliminated from the 31st Cup regatta by OneWorld of Seattle.

OneWorld beat Team Dennis Conner by 1 minute to complete a 4-0 sweep of their best-of-seven quarterfinal; OneWorld advanced to the semifinals, which begin Dec. 9.

Prada of Italy — the challenger champion off Auckland two years ago — advanced to its second Louis Vuitton Cup semifinal when it beat Sweden's Victory Challenge by 1:37, also completing a 4-0 series victory.

HORSE RACING

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — A foot infection ended Kentucky Derby third-place finisher Perfect Drift's season, including knocking the horse out of a race Friday at Churchill Downs.

Continued on Page 10

NFL

Patriots 20, Lions 12

DETROIT — Antowain Smith ran for 80 yards and scored the only touchdown Thursday to lead the Super Bowl champion New England Patriots past the Detroit Lions 20-12.

The Patriots (7-5) have won four of their past five games — after losing four straight — to pull within half a game of American Football Conference East-leading Miami.

The Lions (3-9) have dropped four consecutive games and lost successive Thanksgiving Day games for the first time since 1992-93.

After Jason Hanson's fourth field goal cut Detroit's deficit to 20-12 with under 10 minutes left, the Patriots ran out the clock by driving from their 19 to Detroit's 2. Brady then knelt to end the game.

New England needed fewer than six minutes to grab a 10-0 lead at the start of the game and never let the Lions get closer than 7.

New England's Troy Brown caught 10 passes for 111 yards.

The QBs combined for four interceptions.

Tom Brady, the Super Bowl Most valuable Player in just his second season, was only 18-of-30 for 210 yards with an interception and no touchdowns. Joey Harrington, a rookie, threw three first-half interceptions and finished 22-for-44 for 210 yards with no TD passes.

A national-television audience witnessed what those following the Lions have seen for weeks — Harrington is struggling. He has thrown nine interceptions and five TDs in his past five games.

"Jo-ey! Jo-ey!" chants at Ford Field have given way to boos for Harrington. There were even sarcastic cheers late

in the first half when he threw a ball away instead of forcing a pass or taking a sack. He often sat, stood or knelt alone quietly when Detroit's defense was on the field.

Cowboys 27, Redskins 20

IRVING, Texas — Roy Williams returned an interception 5 yards for a touchdown and Joey Galloway strutted into the end zone with a go-ahead 41-yard touchdown catch to send Dallas past Washington.

Dallas (5-7) has beaten Washington 10 consecutive times.

It looked good for Washington when Danny Wuerffel threw his third touchdown pass for a 20-10 lead early in the third quarter.

Then the Redskins (5-7) missed an extra point, and little went right for them again.

Chad Hutchinson became the sixth Dallas quarterback to rack up a victory during the streak — the longest for either team in the series' 85-game history — by going 12-for-25 for 145 yards and two touchdowns. He wasn't intercepted and didn't fumble for the first time in his five starts.

He also guided the league's lowest-scoring team to its most points this season, and its first division victory. The Cowboys have their first two-game winning streak since last December. That one included a victory over Washington, as did Dallas' two-game streak before that.

Emmitt Smith also had a big role, running 23 times for 144 yards. It was his largest total since Dec. 10, 2000, when he had 150 against — of course — the Redskins. He had seven runs of at least 11 yards and passed the 17,000-yard mark for his career.

From The Associated Press

NHL

Thrashers 7, Rangers 4

ATLANTA — Patrik Stefan, Chris Herperger and Shawn McEachern each scored two goals as Atlanta ended a three-game losing streak with a victory over New York.

Dany Heatley had three assists and goaltender Byron Dafoe won his home debut for the Thrashers, who had lost five of six.

Ilya Kovalchuk also scored for Atlanta, which got its first short-handed goal of the season from McEachern.

Pavel Bure, Eric Lindros, Brian Leetch and Petr Nedved scored for the Rangers.

Blackhawks 4, Coyotes 2

PHOENIX — Alex Zhamnov had a goal and an assist Thursday as the Chicago Blackhawks scored four times in the first period to beat the Phoenix Coyotes 4-2.

Eric Daze also had a goal and an assist, and Sergei Berezin and Nathan Dempsey scored as Chicago snapped a four-game losing streak in the fifth game of its road trip.

Jocelyn Thibault made 34 saves.

Shane Doan scored twice for the Coyotes.

From The Associated Press

Sports in brief continued

Continued from Page 9

SOCCER

Trainer Murray Johnson had been treating a small abscess discovered in the right front foot of the 3-year-old Dynaformer gelding since its discovery last weekend.

TENNIS

PARIS — Captain Guy Forget picked inexperienced Paul-Henri Mathieu over ailing Arnaud Clement for France's pursuit of a second straight Davis Cup title Friday.

The 20-year-old Mathieu, who never has played a Davis Cup match, was selected to play singles along with Sebastian Grosjean against Russia on clay at the Bercy indoor stadium.

Mathieu was drawn Thursday to face 2000 U.S. Open champion Marat Safin in the opening match, followed by Grosjean against two-time Grand Slam title winner Yevgeny Kafelnikov.

BLACKBURN, England — U.S. national team goalie Brad Friedel could be back with Premier League club Blackburn on Saturday after making a quick recovery from left knee surgery.

LONDON — Most English division one soccer teams are in financial trouble because players' salaries exceed revenues.

A report on sports finances said soccer could learn from how other sports managed money, especially with salaries.

The report found soccer clubs had a high percentage of salary costs to income — in 2001 the average for division one clubs was 101 percent, while it Scotland it was 91 percent.

The average first division soccer player earns \$273,000, with the Scottish average salary \$159,120.

From The Associated Press

Scores/standings

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia	10	5	6	0	26	56	49
Pittsburgh	10	5	3	3	26	69	60
New Jersey	11	6	1	1	24	50	42
N.Y. Rangers	10	12	3	0	23	64	80
N.Y. Islanders	8	11	3	0	19	58	73

Northeast Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Boston	14	3	3	1	32	75	45
Ottawa	11	6	3	0	25	57	48
Montreal	10	8	4	0	24	61	69
Toronto	9	11	2	0	20	66	63
Buffalo	4	12	4	1	13	46	60

Southeast Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Tampa Bay	12	6	3	1	28	71	57
Carolina	9	7	4	3	25	54	55
Florida	7	7	6	4	24	61	74
Washington	10	11	2	0	22	57	64
Atlanta	6	14	1	1	14	60	84

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	12	6	3	1	28	66	51
St. Louis	12	7	2	0	26	69	55
Chicago	10	9	3	0	23	52	50
Columbus	8	10	2	2	20	64	67
Nashville	3	10	4	4	14	43	63

Northwest Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Vancouver	13	5	4	0	30	66	53
Minnesota	13	7	4	0	30	65	53
Colorado	8	5	7	3	26	63	59
Edmonton	10	8	4	1	25	62	61
Calgary	6	11	3	3	18	48	67

Pacific Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	15	5	4	1	35	81	48
Los Angeles	9	7	3	3	24	60	61
Anaheim	8	7	5	3	24	56	61
San Jose	8	11	2	2	20	65	74
Phoenix	7	12	4	1	19	57	76

Two points for a win, one point for a tie and overtime loss.

Thursday's games

Atlanta 7, N.Y. Rangers 4
Chicago 4, Phoenix 2

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	12	4	.750	—
Boston	10	4	.714	1
New Jersey	10	6	.625	2
Orlando	9	7	.563	3
Washington	6	8	.429	5
New York	3	10	.231	7½
Miami	3	11	.214	8

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	12	2	.857	—
Detroit	11	4	.733	1½
New Orleans	11	4	.733	1½
Milwaukee	7	7	.500	5
Atlanta	7	8	.467	5½
Toronto	4	10	.286	8
Chicago	4	11	.267	8½
Cleveland	2	14	.125	11

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Francisco	7	4	.636	254
St. Louis	5	6	.455	232
Arizona	4	7	.364	190
Seattle	4	7	.364	220

Pacers 110, Mavericks 98

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indiana Pacers got 26 points from Jermaine O'Neal and inspired efforts from Al Harrington, Brad Miller and Ron Artest to defeat the Dallas Mavericks 110-98.

The Pacers prevented Dallas (14-1) from matching the 1948-49 Washington Capitols and 1993-94 Houston Rockets for the best start to a season in NBA history — 15-0.

Artest scored 20 points, including Indiana's first 10, while Harrington scored 21 on 9-for-12 shooting and Miller added 16 on 7-for-8 shooting.

O'Neal grabbed 18 rebounds and Artest had 10, helping the Pacers to a 54-36 advantage on the boards. Indiana improved to 12-2.

Steve Nash led the Mavericks with 29 points, nine assists and seven rebounds. Dirk Nowitzki shot just 4-for-20. Michael Finley was 7-for-20 and the Mavericks shot 38 percent, compared with Indiana's 54 percent.

	W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	14	1	.933	—
San Antonio	10	6	.625	4½
Houston	8	6	.571	5½
Minnesota	9	7	.563	5½
Utah	8	7	.533	6
Denver	5	10	.333	9
Memphis	2	13	.133	12

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Sacramento	12	5	.706	—
Seattle	9	7	.563	2½
Phoenix	7	6	.538	3
Portland	7	7	.500	3½
L.A. Clippers	6	10	.375	5½
L.A. Lakers	5	11	.313	6½
Golden State	4	11	.267	7

Thursday's games

Indiana 110, Dallas 98
L.A. Clippers 126, New Jersey 118, OT

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Miami	7	4	0	.636	266	190
New England	7	5	0	.583	303	251
N.Y. Jets	6	5	0	.545	235	243
Buffalo	5	6	0	.455	277	317

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Indianapolis	7	4	0	.636	238	203
Tennessee	6	5	0	.545	243	258
Jacksonville	5	6	0	.455	235	206
Houston	3	8	0	.273	154	269

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Pittsburgh	6	4	1	.591	278	246
Cleveland	6	5	0	.545	256	230
Baltimore	5	6	0	.455	197	227
Cincinnati	1	10	0	.091	181	308

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Denver	7	4	0	.636	268	236
Oakland	7	4	0	.636	328	238
San Diego	7	4	0	.636	233	238
Kansas City	5	6	0	.455	321	312

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	8	3	0	.727	310	184
N.Y. Giants	6	5	0	.545	173	185
Dallas	5	7	0	.417	166	214
Washington	5	7	0	.417	219	280

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Tampa Bay	9	2	0	.818	247	126
Atlanta	7	3	1	.682	286	187
New Orleans	7	4	0	.636	322	281
Carolina	3	8	0	.273	145	215

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Green Bay	8	3	0	.727	295	230
Chicago	3	8	0	.273	218	270
Minnesota	3	8	0	.273	254	302
Detroit	3	9	0	.250	215	331

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
San Francisco	7	4	0	.636	254	235
St. Louis	5	6	0	.455	232	232
Arizona	4	7	0	.364	190	264
Seattle	4	7	0	.364	220	249

Thursday's games

New England 20, Detroit 12
Dallas 27, Washington 20

From The Associated Press

NBA

Clippers 126, Nets 118 (OT)

LOS ANGELES — Andre Miller equaled a career high with 37 points, and Elton Brand made a three-point play to give Los Angeles a victory over New Jersey.

Miller, who also had a season-high 16 assists, forced overtime by making a three-pointer in the final 4.9 seconds of fourth quarter to tie it at 111-111.

Brand, who had 21 points, eight rebounds and four blocked shots, put the Clippers on top 118-116 with 3:02 remaining. Michael Olowokandi, who had 14 points, nine rebounds and five blocks, made four free throws in the final minute to clinch the victory.

Jason Kidd had 35 points, including all seven for the Nets in overtime, along with eight rebounds and eight assists. He made a three-pointer early in overtime — the Nets' franchise-record 15th — to give New Jersey a 114-113 lead.

From The Associated Press